

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2009

EDITORIAL WELCOME

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Hello everyone. March 10th as I write and I am sitting in the back (boss wants to save money) of a Singapore Airlines 747 flying Sydney to Singapore. This is – honestly – the first free time I have had in weeks. I just spent 9 days in Sydney and you would think I would be able to find some free time. But sadly no. Am really busy at work and being home for longer than a few days for the first time in a year found me with rather of lot of house hold chores to do, apart from the fact I was working while in Sydney

No complaining as I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I really found no time to do anything with stamps either. In fact tearing the stamps off envelopes that came in the mail was the closest I came to having anything to do with stamps, except think about writing this newsletter, oh, and last night copying a few pictures to my thumb drive so I had something to write about today.

But, having said all that I do read my emails and sadly have had nothing from any of my plea for articles or news items. Oh well I am guessing you are all as busy as me.

My first stamp related comment is to tell you I received the new GB security definitives. I have still not cancelled the Subscription I have with the Royal Mail for the Machin issues. After seeing what these cost me I maybe rethink. But I like Machins. Just one of those stamps that never seems to be boring. No idea why. Just me and many others judging by all the material that is written on these stamps. Assume you have seen them? Here they are.



Of course one doesn't just collect Machins by collecting individual stamps does one :-). There are so many ways the Royal Mail has found to issue Machins. There is the Presentation Pack of course, plus self adhesive sheets of 50 stamps, or you may like to collect the new colour blocks that Royal mail started issuing in April last year. This is where the word describing the colour is found printed in the margin. A block of 4 stamps of each of these will set you back about £57; wow, and that is just to

keep in an album. Rather have that pay off my credit card bill I am afraid. Or should I say my wife would rather have me pay something of my credit card bill. Oh and then again if you are really well off you might collect the blocks of six from the corner of the sheet with the new "six boxed cylinder grid" And finally for now, is the one other collectable; the Booklet. This one I saw somewhere and thought I'd show it. I haven't collected these for many years. Just too many issues



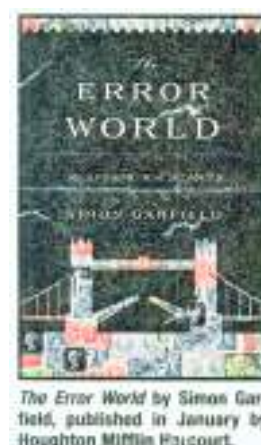
as far as I can tell. Even though only two pages I hope you enjoy this issue and I do look forward to receiving emails and ideas for future issues. Michael

## PHILATELY PORTAL

I can across this from Linns News (Scott Stamp Monthly) I ran out of time so didn't get a chance to have a look. It sounds like an interesting site. Has anyone had a look? Or if anyone does and wants to write to me with their impressions I'd be pleased to hear from you. This is a philatelic portal at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Philately>. Now someone did write to me asking I make the hyperlinks active. I tried but have failed. Any advice from anyone please? Anyway this portal is a free online encyclopedia initiated by the Wikimedia Foundation. Perhaps someone will have a look and tell me if it is useful.

## BOOK REVIEW

A friend sent me a book review. Wish I had time to read this book it sounds interesting. It is a memoir titled *The Error World* recently published by Simon Garfield. A subtitle to the book is *An Affair with Stamps*. Clever since Garfield is a journalist who had an extramarital affair and after a divorce it seems he took to writing the book. While the divorce plays a role in the story nearly every page is devoted to his obsession with stamps and collecting. Garfield identifies himself as a collector of errors and his collecting interests are British Commonwealth it seems. And specifically errors of the pre-decimal QE II period, that is 1952 through 1970. The review I read makes it sound like a worthwhile read. If you have read it I'd be most pleased to hear your thoughts.



## ST. PATRICKS DAY

I used to live in Toronto, and on the corner of Bloor and Yonge there is a brilliant Irish pub. Green beer served all day on 17th March every year. Forget the name of the place now, I think it will still be there as it was as landmark. Nothing green at all about this stamp which I think is to be issued to commemorative St Partick's day this year.



## JUST SOME CLOSING STUFF



Since I am flying I thought I'd leave you with this Smilers sheet.

40 Anniversary of Concorde. What a plane. Was and still is. Pity it is not still flying, or at least a next generation. No, I won't give you my political view on this topic for fear of losing some friends in the US — hey at least you like to show it off in Seattle at the Boeing Field Air Museum. Well done Where was I, I digressed, It wouldn't be 8 hours to Singapore would it. But then less time to eat, write and get some sleep. Just cannot satisfy me eh!!! Ha ha. But it is about stamps And I do think this a rather good design. Anyway, this would be

nice to own, and frame I think.

Finally, again, apology for short issue. Got to get my work life balance in order. And as I always so, all ideas and feedback is welcome and I will never be upset at criticism as that can only be for the improvement of this Newsletter. Enjoy your stamp and stamp colleagues. .... *Michael*